

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14  
OC-06 CCO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02  
SCSE-00 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /116 W  
-----116636 301817Z /46

P R 301757Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7801  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS LONDON 14489

WASHDC BRUSSELS PASS FAA  
DEPT. PASS OTHER APPROPRIATE ADDRESSES

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, UK  
SUBJECT: SITREP ON UK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STRIKE NO. 8  
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1. CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED BY U.K. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA) OVER WEEKEND TO HANDLE AIR TRAFFIC AT HEATHROW AND GATWICK WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. CAA HAS DEMANDED THAT RETURNING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANTS (ATCA'S) EMPLOY NORMAL WORKING PROCEDURES AND USE THE COMPUTER WHICH PRIOR TO

THIS BANK HOLIDAY STRIKE THEY HAD REFUSED TO USE. THOSE REFUSING HAVE BEEN GIVEN 48 HOURS TO RECONSIDER OR BE SUSPENDED. ATCA'S UNION IS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH OTHER AIRPORT UNIONS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT SUPPORT IT WOULD RECEIVE IF IT WERE TO CALL A FULL STRIKE, AND IT MEETS TOMORROW MORNING TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION IT WILL TAKE. LIKELIHOOD IS THAT AIR CONTROL SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE OPERATING UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. WITH CONTINUATION OF CURTAILED FLIGHT SCHEDULES AND SOME DELAYS.

2. DURING WEEKEND FLIGHTS MOVED WITHOUT EXCESSIVE DELAYS. EMBASSY HAD NO GREAT DELUGE OF PHONE CALLS FROM U.S. CITIZENS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE ADVANCE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO STRIKE. EMBASSY DID SEND OFF A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERESTED PARTY TELEGRAMS FOR U.S. CITIZENS ON 2 DANAIR CHARTERS OUT OF GATWICK WHICH HAD LONG DELAYS IN DEPARTURE. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WERE ABLE THROUGHOUT WEEKEND TO HANDLE 15 PLANES IN PEAK HOURS ON NORTH ATLANTIC AND HAVE NOW BUILT UP TO 20 PLANES IN PEAK HOURS. SOME DELAYS BEING EXPERIENCED BECAUSE OF CREW AND EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS, OFTEN ARISING FROM PLANES BEING UNABLE TO RETURN ON TIME FROM SPANISH AND FRENCH AIRPORT

3. PRESENT CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE REQUIRED CONSOLIDATION OF FLIGHTS AND SOME CUTS, BUT ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC, SCHEDULES HAVE NOT BEEN DRAMATICALLY AFFECTED.  
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BRITISH AIRWAYS HAS MADE MOST CUTS. PAN AM REPORTS IT HAS ONLY HAD TO CUT ITS FLIGHTS BY APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT. THE AIRLINES MAJOR WORRY IS THAT THE ATCA'S MAY GAIN THE SUPPORT OF OTHER UNIONS WHO WOULD REFUSE TO CROSS THEIR PICKET LINES IF THEY STRUCK, IN PARTICULAR, THE FUELERS UNION.

STREATROR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, PROGRESS REPORTS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** SITREP ON UK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STRIKE NO. 8 UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** EAIR, CASC, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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